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ORGANIZATION OF THE Military Peace Establishment OF THE UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
May 17th, 1815.

The act of Congress of the 31st of March, 1815, declares, "That the military peace establishment of the United States, shall consist of such proportions of artillery, infantry, and riflemen, not exceeding, in the whole, ten thousand men, as the President of the United States shall judge proper; that the corps of engineers, as at present established, be retained; that the President of the United States cause to be arranged the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, of the several corps of troops in the service of the United States, in such manner as to form and complete out of the same, the corps authorized by this act; and that he cause the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, to be discharged from the service of the United States, from and after the first day of May next, or as soon as circumstances may permit."

The President of the United States, having performed the duty which the law assigned to him, has directed that the organization of the military peace establishment be announced in general orders; and that the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, be discharged from the service of the United States, as soon as the circumstances, which are necessary for the payment and discharge of the troops will permit.

But on this important and interesting occasion, the President of the United States is aware, that he owes to the feelings of the nation, as well as to his own feelings, an expression of the high sense entertained of the services of the American army. Leaving the scenes of private life, the citizens become the soldiers of the United States; the spirit of a genuine patriotism pervades the military establishment; and the events of the war have conspicuously developed the moral, as well as the physical character of an army, in which every man seems to have deemed himself the chosen champion of his country.

The pacific policy of the American government, the domestic habits of the people, and a long sequestration from the use of arms, will justly account for the want of warlike preparation, for an imperfect state of discipline, and for various other sources of embarrassment, or disaster, which existed at the commencement of hostilities; but to account for the achievements of the American army, in all their splendor, and for its efficient acquirements in every important branch of the military art, during a war of little more than two years continuance; it is necessary to resort to that principle of action, which, in a free country, identifies the citizen with his government; impels each individual to seek the knowledge that is requisite for the performance of his duty; and renders every soldier, in effect, a combatant in his own cause.

The President of the United States anticipated from the career of an army thus constituted, all the glory and the fruits of victory; and it has been his happiness to see a just war terminated by an honorable peace, after such demonstrations of valor, genius, and enterprise, as secure for the land and naval forces of the United States an imperishable renown; for the citizens, the best prospect of an undisturbed enjoyment of their rights; and for the government, the respect and confidence of the world.

To the American Army, which has so nobly contributed to these results, the President of the United States presents this public testimonial of approbation and applause, at the moment when many of its gallant officers and men must, unavoidably, be separated from the standard of their country. Under all governments, and especially under all free governments, the restoration of peace has uniformly produced a reduction of the military establishment. The United States disbanded in 1809 the troops which had been raised on account of the difference with France; and the memorable peace of 1783, was followed by a discharge of the illustrious army of the Revolution. The frequency, or the necessity, of the occurrence does not, however, deprive it of its interest; and the dispersion of the military family, at this juncture, under circumstances peculiarly affecting, cannot fail to awaken all the sympathies of the generous and the just.

The difficulty of accomplishing a satisfactory organization of the military peace establishment, has been anxiously felt. The act of Congress contemplates a small but an effective force, and, consequently, the honorable men, whose years, or infirmities, or wounds, render them incapable of further service, in active warfare, are necessarily excluded from the establishment. The act contemplates a reduction of the army from many, to a few regiments; and, consequently, a long list of meritorious officers must, inevitably, be laid aside. But the attempt has been assiduously made to collect authentic information from every source, as a foundation for an impartial judgment on the various claims to attention; and even while a decision is pronounced, the President of the United States desires it may be distinctly understood, that from the designation of the officers who are retained in service, nothing more is to be inferred, than his approbation of the designated individuals; without derogating, in any degree, from the fame and worth of those, whose lot it is to retire.

The American army of the war of 1812 has hitherto successfully emulated the patriotism and the valor of the army of the war of 1776.—The closing scene of the example remains alone to be performed. Having established the independence of their country, the revolutionary warriors cheerfully returned to the walks of civil life: many of them became the benefactors and ornaments of society. In the prosecution of various arts and professions; and of them, as well as the veteran few who survive the lapse of time, have been the objects of grateful recollection, and constant regard. It is for the American army, now dissolved, to pursue the same honorable course, in order to enjoy the same inestimable reward. The hope may be respectfully indulged, that the beneficence of the legislative authority will bestow upon suffering merit; an admiring nation will unite the civic with the martial honors, which adorn its heroes; and posterity, in its theme of gratitude, will indiscriminately praise the protectors and the founders of American Independence.

By order of the President of the United States,
A. J. DALLAS,
Acting Secretary of War.

Department of War, 8th April, 1815.

GENTLEMEN,

The President of the United States has requested your attendance at Washington, with a view to the aid which your experience and information enable you to afford, in forming the military peace establishment, according to the directions of the act of Congress, passed on the 31st of March, 1815. I have the honor, therefore, of calling your attention to this interesting and important business; and to request an early report upon the following points; premising, that your report will be considered as an authentic source of information, to which a just respect will be paid in all future deliberations upon the subject.

1. The Organization of the Army.
2. The Selection of the Officers.
3. The Military Stations.

I. The Organization of the Army.

The act of Congress declares, that the military peace establishment of the United States shall consist of proportions of artillery, infantry and riflemen, not exceeding in the whole ten thousand men; and that the corps of engineers, as at present established, be retained.

Upon full consideration of the terms of the act, and of the military interpretation given to similar terms, on other occasions, the President is of opinion, that the military peace establishment, so far as it is composed of artillery, infantry and riflemen, is to consist of the number of ten thousand men, exclusively of officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians; and you will be pleased to conform in your report, to that opinion.

The proportions of artillery, infantry and riflemen to compose the military peace establishment of ten thousand men, are referred to your consideration; and you will be pleased, in your report, to furnish the necessary details for forming the establishment into brigades, regiments, battalions and companies. But it is proper to observe, that special provision is made by law for the organization of the corps of artillery, as prescribed in the act of the 30th of March, 1814; for the organization of the regiment of light artillery, as prescribed in the act of the 12th of April, 1808; and for the organization of the regiments of infantry and riflemen, as prescribed in the act of the 31st of March, 1815.

The law has, also, specially provided, that there shall be four brigade-inspectors, four brigade quarter-masters, and such number of hospital surgeons and surgeon's mates, as the service may require, not exceeding five surgeons and fifteen mates, with one steward, and one ward-master to each hospital. But the brigade-inspectors are to be taken from the line, and the brigade quarter-masters, as well as adjutants, regimental quarter-masters, and paymasters, are to be taken from the subalterns of the line.

II. The Selection of the Officers.

The reduction of the military establishment to the number of ten thousand men, sufficiently indicates the intention of Congress to be, that the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates should be selected and arranged in such manner as to form and complete an effective corps. It is, undoubtedly, a painful task to make a discrimination, which affects the interest, and possibly the subsistence of honorable men, whose misfortune it is, by age, by infirmities, or by wounds, to be disabled from rendering further service to their country; but the task must be performed by those who are charged with the execution of the law; leaving the relief which may be justly claimed by suffering merit, to the beneficent care of the legislative authority.

It is the opinion of the President, therefore, that in the selection of the officers to be retained upon the military peace establishment, those only should be recommended, in your report, for his approbation, who are, at this time, competent to engage an enemy in the field of battle.

The number of field officers now in service amounts to two hundred and sixteen, and the number of regimental officers, now in service amounts to two thousand and fifty-five. Of the former, about thirty nine, and of the latter about four hundred and fifty can be retained in service, according to the provisions of the act of Congress for fixing the military peace establishment. In every grade of appointment, almost every officer has gallantly performed his duty. It is obvious, therefore, that with respect to the field officers, and the regimental officers, as well as with respect to the general officers, men of high military merit must unavoidably be omitted in the present organization of the army. It has not been, and it never can be, under such circumstances, a mark of disrespect, or a subject of reproach, to omit the name of any officer; and the President wishes it may be distinctly understood, that from the selection of officers, nothing more ought to be inferred, than his approbation of the selected individuals, without derogating, in any degree, from the reputation and worth of others.

It is the President's desire upon this important point, that distinguished military merit and approved moral character should form the basis of all the selections which your report shall submit to his consideration. Where, in these respects, the claims of officers are equal, length of service, a capacity for civil pursuits, and the pecuniary situation of the parties, may justly furnish considerations to settle the question. And where neither direct nor collateral circumstances exist, by which your judgment can be fixed, you will find a reasonable satisfaction, perhaps, in referring the decision in this case, as is done in many similar cases, to the chance of a lottery; or you may submit a recommendatory list, leaving the selection entirely to the Executive. Great pains have been taken to collect and preserve the testimonials of military merit; and these, with all the other documents of the department, which can assist your enquiries, will be confidentially placed before you. It is not doubted, therefore, that your report will be as advantageous to the government as it will be just to the army. A result at once impartial and effective, will not only correspond with the President's views, but must command the approbation of every honorable mind; and it is, in particular, believed, that an appeal may be confidently made, in the performance of so arduous a duty, to the candor of your military brethren, whatever may be their personal disappointment, or regret.

III. The Military Stations.

The general division of the United States, into a department of the North, and a department of the South, with a subdivision into con-

venient districts, including in each department a major general, two brigadier generals, and a proper proportion of the army, will, probably be attended with practical advantages; and it is, therefore, referred to your consideration.

The assignment of a competent garrison to the existing forts and military stations; and an apportionment of the troops to the districts, according to the service which may be required, will engage your particular attention. But it has been suggested, that some of the regiments have obtained a local character, from the residence of the officers, the enlistment of the men, and the scene of service during the war; if, therefore, you should deem it practicable and useful, both in the selection of officers, and in the assignment of stations to the troops, to regard that character of locality, you will be pleased to report accordingly.

There are other important subjects connected with the execution of the act of Congress of the 31st of March, 1815, which I may hereafter have occasion to lay before you. But the points of this communication being of immediate urgency, I shall, at present, close the general views, which I have taken of them, with an assurance, that you may command all the information and assistance that it is in my power to give.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
Gentlemen, your most obt. servt.

A. J. DALLAS,
Acting Secretary of War:
Major Generals Brown, Jackson, Scott,
Gaines, Macomb and Ripley.

Department of War, April 17, 1815.

GENTLEMEN,

I proceed to state some additional views connected with the execution of the act of Congress fixing the military peace establishment.

I. Corps belonging to the army, which are not expressly retained by the provisions of the act, are to be discharged.

The corps expressly provided for, are

1. The corps of artillery;
2. The regiment of light artillery;
3. The corps of engineers;
4. Regiments of infantry and riflemen.

The corps not provided for, are

1. The regiment of light dragoons;
2. The Canadian volunteers;
3. The sea-fencibles.

II. The officers of the general staff employed in the command, discipline and duties of the army, who are not expressly retained by the provisions of the act, are to be discharged.

The officers provided for, are

1. Two major-generals, with two aids de camp, each.
2. Four brigadier-generals with one aide de camp, each.
3. Four brigade inspectors.
4. Four brigade quarter-masters.

The officers not provided for, are

1. All the general officers, except the six above mentioned;
2. All the officers of the adjutant general's department;
3. All the officers of the inspector general's department—four brigade inspectors being substituted;
4. All the officers of the quarter-master's department—four brigade quarter-masters being substituted;
5. All the officers of the topographical department.

III. Departments which do not form a constituent part of the army are preserved, except so far as the act of Congress by express provision, or necessary implication, introduces an alteration.

1. The Ordnance Department is preserved. It is a distinct establishment, with a view to a state of peace, as well as a state of war. It is not affected by any express provision in the act of Congress; and it is an object of the appropriations made for them military peace establishment.

2. The Purchasing Department is preserved for similar reasons.

3. The Pay Department is preserved, with specific modifications. The act of Congress expressly provides for the appointment of regimental paymasters. The office of district paymaster, and assistant district paymaster is abolished; but the act of the 18th of April, 1814, which continues in force for one year after the war, is not repealed, nor affected in any other manner, than has been mentioned by the act of the 31st of March, 1815. It is seen, therefore, that the act of the 18th of April, 1814, fixing the military peace establishment, constituted the office of paymaster of the army, seven paymasters, and two assistants; and that the act of the 18th of April 1814, recognizes the office of paymaster of the army; and in lieu of a monthly compensation, allows the paymaster an annual salary of two thousand dollars, payable quarterly at the Treasury. The former act of indefinite continuance; and the latter will continue in force until the 17th of February, 1816. Nor does the act of the 31st of March, 1815, affect the office of deputy paymaster general; the act of the 6th of July, 1812, providing, that to any army of the United States other than that in which the paymaster of the army shall serve, the President may appoint one deputy paymaster general, to be taken from the line of the army; and each deputy shall have a competent number of assistants.

4. The office of Judge Advocate is preserved. The act of the 11th of January, 1812, provides, that there shall be appointed to each division, a judge advocate. The act of the 31st of March, 1815, neither expressly, nor by necessary implication, repeals that provision.

5. The Chaplains are preserved. The act of the 11th of January, 1812, provides that there shall be appointed to each brigade, one chaplain. The act of the 31st of March, 1815, neither expressly, nor by necessary implication, repeals that provision.

6. The Hospital Department is not preserved. The act of the 31st of March, 1815, provides for regimental surgeons and surgeon's mates, and for such number of hospital surgeons and surgeon's mates, as the service may require, not exceeding five surgeons and fifteen mates, with one steward, and one ward-master to each hospital. From this specific arrangement, it is necessarily implied, that the physicians and surgeon general, the assistant apothecaries general, and all the hospital surgeons and surgeon's mates, garrison surgeons and surgeon's mates, except the above specified

* Major Generals Jackson and Gaines could not attend, in consequence of the distance of their quarters from Washington, and the urgency of the service required in the military districts in which they commanded,

number, are to be discharged.—The physician and surgeon general, and the apothecary general, were appointed, the better to superintend the hospital and medical establishment of the army of the United States, under the act of the 31st of March, 1813; and the act of the 30th of March, 1814, authorized the President to appoint so many assistant apothecaries as the service might, in his judgment, require. The occasion for the appointments under both acts has ceased; and the act of the 31st of March, 1815, meant to provide a substitute for the whole department, according to the demands of the peace establishment.

7. The Military Academy is preserved. The act of the 31st of March, 1815, provides, that the corps of engineers, as at present established, shall be retained. By the act of the 16th of March, 1802, ten cadets were assigned to the corps of engineers. By the act of the 29th of April, 1812, the cadets, whether of artillery, cavalry, riflemen, or infantry, were limited to the number of 250, who might be attached, by the President, as students to the military academy, but the act of the 31st of March, 1815, declares, that the regiment of light artillery shall have the same organization as is prescribed by the act passed the 12th of April, 1803; and by that act two cadets are to be attached to each company. It is, there, to be considered, that there are 250 cadets attached to the military academy, under the establishment of the act of the 29th of April, 1812, and 20 cadets attached to the regiment of light artillery.

Upon this analysis of the act of Congress for fixing the military peace establishment, the President wishes to receive any information which you think will tend to promote the public service, in reference to the following enquiries:

1. The best arrangements to adapt to the peace establishment—the ordnance department—the purchasing department—the pay department—and the military academy.

2. The arrangements best adapted to render the medical establishment competent to the garrison, as well as to the regimental service.

It is obvious, that considerable difficulty will arise, if the adjutant general's and the quarter-master general's departments should be immediately and entirely abolished, and if the garrison surgeons should be immediately discharged. The President is desirous to execute the act of Congress, as far as it is practicable and safe, on the first of May next; but he is disposed to take the latitude which the act allows, in cases that clearly require a continuance of the offices for the necessary public service. You will be pleased, therefore, to state:

1. Whether, in your judgment, the continuance of the office of adjutant and inspector general is necessary for the public service?

2. Whether, in your judgment, the continuance of any, and which of the offices in the quarter-master's department, is necessary for the public service?

3. Whether, in your judgment, the continuance of any, and which of the offices in the medical department, not expressly provided for by the law, is necessary for the public service?

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, very respectfully, your most obt. servant.

A. J. DALLAS,
Acting Secretary of War:
Major Generals Brown, Jackson, Scott,
Gaines, Macomb and Ripley.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, }
12th May, 1815. }

The acting Secretary of War has the honor to submit to the President of the United States, the following report:

That the act of Congress, entitled "An act fixing the military peace establishment of the United States," passed on the 31st of March, 1815, provided, that after the corps constituting the peace establishment was formed and completed, the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, should be discharged from the service of the United States, from and after the first day of May, ensing the date of the act, or as soon as circumstances might permit. But it was soon found impracticable to obtain from all the military districts the information which was requisite to do justice to the army, and to the nation, in reducing the military establishment from a force of ten thousand men, to a force of

thousand men, so early as the first of May. And it is obvious, that circumstances do not even yet permit the entire reduction contemplated by the act of Congress, with regard to the settlement of the numerous accounts depending in the quarter-master, commissary, and pay departments, and the medical care of the troops at the many military stations to which they must be apportioned.

That having, however, diligently collected from every proper source of information, the necessary materials for deciding upon the various subjects involved in the execution of the act of Congress; and having obtained from the board of general officers convened at Washington, the most valuable assistance, the acting Secretary of War respectfully lays the result before the President of the United States, in the form of four general orders to be issued from this department:

No. 1. A general order, announcing the military divisions and departments of the United States; the corps and regiments constituting the military peace establishment; and the distribution and apportionment of the troops.

No. 2. A general order, announcing the army register for the peace establishment, including the officers provisionally retained in service, until circumstances shall permit their discharge.

No. 3. A general order, directing the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates to be paid, and discharging them from the service of the United States, on the 15th day of June next, or as soon thereafter as the payment can be completed; provided, first, that such officers of every rank, as may be necessary to supply vacancies created by resignations on the first organization of the corps and regiments for the peace establishment, shall be deemed to be in service for that purpose alone; and, 2d, that pay-masters, quarter-masters, commissaries and other officers, who have been charged with the disbursement of public money, shall be deemed to be in service for the single purpose of rendering their

accounts for settlement, within a reasonable time.

No. 4. A general order, requiring the major generals to assume the command of their respective divisions, and to proceed to form and distribute the corps and regiments for their respective commands, according to the system announced for the military peace establishment.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. J. DALLAS,
Acting Secretary of War,
The President of the United States,
APPROVED, May 15, 1815.

JAMES MADISON.
Adjutant and Inspector General's Office,
May 17, 1815.

GENERAL ORDERS.
In pursuance of the act of Congress entitled "An act fixing the military peace establishment of the U. States," approved the 31st of March, 1815, the President of the U. States has judged proper, that the military peace establishment shall consist of the following proportions of artillery, infantry, and riflemen; the corps of engineers being retained as at present established.

1. Of the corps of artillery, there shall be thirty-two Companies, or eight battalions, making 3,200 men.
2. Of the light artillery, there shall be ten companies, or one regiment, making 660 men.
3. Of the infantry, there shall be eighty companies, or eight regiments, making 5,440 men.
4. Of the riflemen, there shall be ten companies, or one regiment making 680 men.—Total, 9,980.

And the President of the United States has further judged proper, that the United States be divided into two military divisions; and that each military division be subdivided into military departments, as follows:

The division of the north to comprise five military departments, to wit:

- No. 1 New York, above the highlands, and Vermont.
- No. 2 New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- No. 3 New York, below the highlands, and that part of New Jersey which furnishes the first division of militia.
- No. 4 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and that part of New Jersey which furnishes the second division of militia.
- No. 5 Ohio, and the territories of Michigan and Indiana.

The division of the south, to comprise four military departments, to wit:

- No. 6 Virginia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia.
- No. 7 South Carolina and Georgia.
- No. 8 Louisiana and the Mississippi territory.
- No. 9 Tennessee, Kentucky, and the territories of Missouri and Illinois.

And the President of the U. States has further judged proper, that the general distribution of the regiments and corps constituting the military peace establishment, shall be made in the following manner:

To the division of the north—
The second, third, fifth and sixth regiments of infantry, forming two brigades.

Four battalions of the corps of artillery; and the regiment of light artillery.

To the division of the south—
The first, fourth, seventh and eighth regiments of infantry, forming two brigades.

Four battalions of the corps of artillery; and the regiment of riflemen.

And the President of the United States has further judged it proper, that a part of the several regiments and corps constituting the military peace establishment, shall be detailed and apportioned for the following named stations, and that the rest of the regiments and corps shall be disposed of as the Major Generals commanding divisions may hereafter direct.

In the division of the north—
For the posts and fortresses on the coast of New England.

The regiment of light artillery, ten companies.

Of the corps of artillery, four companies; Total 14.

For the harbor of New York, and its dependencies, of the corps of artillery, four companies.

For Fort Mifflin, and its dependencies, of the corps of artillery, two companies.

For Fort M'Henry, and its dependencies, of the corps of artillery, two companies.

For Sackett's Harbor, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Plattsburg, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Niagara, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Fort Washington, on the Potomac, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Detroit and its dependencies, of infantry, ten companies, of riflemen four companies.—Total 14.

In the division of the south.

For Norfolk harbor, and its dependencies, of the corps of artillery, 3 companies.

For Forts Johnson and Hampton, N. C. of the Corps of artillery, one company.

For Charleston harbor, and its dependencies, of the corps of artillery four companies.

For Savannah, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Mobile, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Plaquemine, of the corps of artillery, one company.

For Fort St. Charles, St. John, and Petite Coquette, of the corps of artillery, 3 companies.

For Nachitoches, of the corps of artillery one company, of riflemen two companies.—Total 3 companies.

For St. Louis, and its dependencies, of infantry ten companies, of riflemen four companies.—Total 14 companies.

For Chefuncta, of infantry, ten companies.

For the vicinity of Augusta, Geo. of infantry, ten companies.